

Serial No.: 10/785,132

REMARKS

I. Status Summary

Claims 1-60 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 8-11, 14, 17, 21-23, 27, 29, 30, 34-36, 40, 43, 47, 50, 51, 54, and 57 have been amended. Claims 7, 20, 33, 42, 49, and 56 have been canceled. The above amendments do not introduce any new matter. Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 13-16, 18, 19, 24-29, 31, 32, 37-41, 44-48, 52-55, and 58-60 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,120,934 to Ishikawa (hereinafter, "Ishikawa"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Further, the Examiner states that Claims 4, 7-12, 17, 20-23, 30, 33-36, 42, 43, 49-51, 56, and 57 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features recited by dependent claim 7. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 13 depend upon claim 1. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 13 include the features recited by claim 1. Accordingly, for the same reasons set

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forth for claim 1, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claim 4 has been amended to include the features recited by claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 should be allowed at this time.

Claim 7 has been canceled.

Claims 8-10 and 13 depend upon claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-10 and 13 should be allowed at this time.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the features recited by claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 and its dependent claim 12 should be allowed at this time.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the features recited by dependent claim 20. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 15, 16, 18, 19, and 24-26 depend upon claim 14. Therefore, claims 15, 16, 18, 19, and 24-26 include the features recited by claim 14. Accordingly, for the same reasons set forth for claim 14, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 15, 16, 18, 19, and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the features recited by claims 14 and 16. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 should be allowed at this time.

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Claim 20 has been canceled.

Claims 21-23 depend upon claim 14. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 21-23 should be allowed at this time.

Claim 27 has been amended to include the features recited by dependent claim 33. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 28, 29, 31, 32, and 37-39 depend upon claim 27. Therefore, claims 28, 29, 31, 32, and 37-39 include the features recited by claim 27. Accordingly, for the same reasons set forth for claim 27, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 28, 29, 31, 32, and 37-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claim 30 has been amended to include the features recited by claims 27 and 29. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 30 should be allowed at this time.

Claim 33 has been canceled.

Claims 34-36 depend upon claim 27. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 34-36 should be allowed at this time.

Claim 40 has been amended to include the features recited by dependent claim 42. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 41 and 44-46 depend upon claim 1. Therefore, claims 41 and 44-46 include the features recited by claim 4-. Accordingly, for the same reasons set forth

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for claim 40, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 41 and 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claim 42 has been canceled.

Claim 43 has been amended to depend upon claim 40. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above for claim 40, applicants respectfully submit that claim 43 should be allowed at this time.

Claim 47 has been amended to include the features recited by dependent claim 49. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 48, 52, and 53 depend upon claim 47. Therefore, claims 48, 52, and 53 include the features recited by claim 47. Accordingly, for the same reasons set forth for claim 47, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 48, 52, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claim 49 has been canceled.

Claims 50 and 51 depend upon claim 47. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 50 and 51 should be allowed at this time.

Claim 54 has been amended to include the features recited by dependent claim 56. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 55 and 58-60 depend upon claim 54. Therefore, claims 55 and 58-60 include the features recited by claim 54. Accordingly, for the same reasons set forth

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for claim 54, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 55 and 58-60 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claim 56 has been canceled.

Claim 57 depends upon claim 54. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 57 should be allowed at this time.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above Amendments and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

FEE DUE

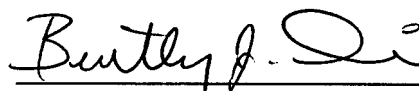
A check in the amount of \$1,890.00 is enclosed for the fee due. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies of payment associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426 to avoid the unintentional abandonment of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON, TAYLOR & HUNT, P.A.

Date: 10-23-2007

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